

## **WILLIAM E. RACKER.**

### **Biography from the Lehi Centennial History**

William E. Racker was born in Aarhus, Denmark, January 23, 1853, and was the son of Christian F. and Jacobine Racker. His father died when William E. was five months old. He spent his early life in Denmark and was educated in the schools of that country. At the age of fifteen years he emigrated to America, being the second son but now the oldest son living.

He arrived in Salt Lake City Sept. 25, 1868, where he remained for a year, the remainder of the family coming to Lehi where he joined them later. He began life in Lehi working at anything he could get to do, in the field or on the threshing machine; later he became clerk in the tithing office under Bishop David Evans, staying there seven years.

At the end of that time, he accepted a position as bookkeeper with the People's Co-operative Institution. He was advanced to the position of secretary and treasurer of held that place for ten years and then was made Superintendent in 1893. He also held the office of secretary and treasurer of the institution.

Mr. Racker was married on the 31st of March, 1873, to Miss Rozilla Evans, daughter of Bishop Evans. By this marriage twelve children have been born, nine of whom are living.

Mr. Racker is a Republican in politics. He has been Treasurer of Lehi for three terms and has been prominent in all public affairs in the early days. He was one of the leading men in getting the sugar factory located in Lehi; was one of the promoters of the Lehi Commercial and Savings Bank, and a director of it for years;

was president and director of the first electric light company, in the north end of Utah County; and one of the owners and builders of the Union Hotel.

Mr. Racker is a member of the L. D. S. Church and is now a high priest. In February, 1903, he went on a mission to his native country, returning in May, 1904. In August of that year he organized the Racker Mercantile Company and became president and manager. In 1906 he was re-elected president and director of the Utah County Light and Power Company, and remained an officer of that company until its consolidation with the Knight Power Company.

At the city election in the fall of 1911, he was elected Mayor of Lehi City and commenced to serve in that office on January 1, 1912, and is still serving in that capacity.

When the State Bank of Lehi was organized he was chosen a director and chairman of the Executive Board of that bank.